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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3208
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
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RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5481
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3204
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3069
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3724
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3758

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SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

STATE FOR SCA/CEN
AID/W FOR EE/EA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: IDHR EXPRESSES INTEREST IN WORKING
WITH AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

¶1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

¶2. (SBU) American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative Country Director in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan Catherine Dwyer briefed Charge July 28 on a meeting she had with National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (IDHR) Director Shirin Akhmedova. ABA hopes to partner with IDHR, and therefore, met to discuss various project ideas. Dwyer explained to Akhmedova the types of projects ABA normally does and asked what IDHR might be interested in. Akhmedova said they would like assistance on trade law, training of lawyers and judges, and mediation. She said they would like to set up mediation councils around the country to help settle disputes, without resorting to courts or other formal legal processes.

¶3. (SBU) Akhmedova also suggested that Dwyer meet with the Union of Women to speak with them regarding training on women's rights. She offered to facilitate such a meeting.

¶4. (SBU) COMMENT: According to Dwyer, mediation works well for local, community-based disputes, which probably account for the majority of problems that arise. The key to a successful assistance project in Turkmenistan is working with a good partner on an area where the Turkmen see a need. Rule of law training definitely is something that is needed. END COMMENT.
CURRAN